

REMARKS

The Office Action dated July 16, 2007, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments and the following remarks are submitted with the accompanying Request for Continued Examination as a full and complete response thereto.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

The Applicants appreciate the acknowledgement of allowable subject matter in claim 2. Claim 2 has been incorporated in its entirety into Claim 1 thereby making Claim 1 and Claims 3 and 4 dependent thereon allowable.

By the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 3, and 4 have been amended. Claims 2 and 5-14 have been cancelled.

With respect to the restriction requirement regarding Claims 5 - 14, the Applicants respectfully reserve the right to file divisional applications under 35 U.S.C. 121 as appropriate without acquiescing in the correctness of the requirement.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 2 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. This has been done.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a)

(1) Claims 1 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over

Buynoski et al. (U.S. Patent 6,207,553). This rejection is rendered moot by the incorporation of Claim 2 into Claim 1.

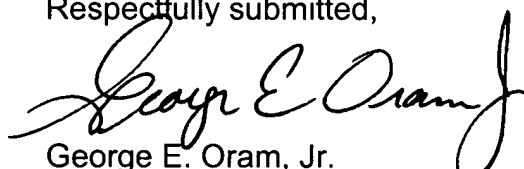
Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of claims 1, 3 and 4 are in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowability is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing Attorney Docket Number 026390-00029.

Respectfully submitted,


George E. Oram, Jr.
Registration Number 27,931

Customer No. 004372
ARENT FOX LLP
1050 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20036-5339
Telephone: 202-857-6000
Fax: 202-857-6395

GEO:vmh